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Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations
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NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES

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On the eve of World War I there were 63 independent states (according to criteria of the U.S. Department of State); on the eve of World War II, a quarter of a century later, there were 71. According to an official listing of the U.S. Department of State,(1) forty-nine nations were added to the world community between 1943 and 1962. During the period 1963-64, another five were added, making a total of fifty-four new nations since World War II. Only 24 states, or 20 percent of the total 120, lie in the Western Hemisphere lands. Europe, Asia, and Africa each accounts for roughly 25 percent. The number of independent states by continents is as follows:

Western Hemisphere	24
Europe	31
Asia	29
Africa	33
Oceania	3
	120

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Another worldwide distribution of states relates them to politico-geographic regions. These states can be grouped into the 13 politico-geographic regions as shown in the following tabulation:

(1) The concept of independence as used by the U.S. Department of State, Status of the World's Nations, Geographic Bulletin No. 2, July 1963: "statehood without foreign jurisdiction."

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	Politico-Geographic Region[1]	Number of States
1.	Anglo America	2
2.	Caribbean America	12
3.	South America	10
4.	Western Europe	21
5.	Eastern Europe	9(a)
6.	U.S.S.R.	1
7.	Africa - Sahara and North	7(b)
8.	Africa - South of the Sahara	26(b)
9.	Southwest Asia (Middle East)(c)	12
10.	South Asia	6
11.	Southeast Asia	8
12.	Far East	3
13.	Oceania	3
		120

(a) Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are not included.

(b) Three African states, Chad, Mali, and Niger, extend northward into the Sahara Desert. Culturally, however, they belong in the South-of-the-Sahara category. Conversely, Sudan lies astride the line separating North Africa from the southern segment of the continent, but culturally belongs to the north.

(c) The concept of Southwest Asia corresponds to the area generally accepted as the Middle East minus the United Arab Republic in northeastern Africa and Turkey in Europe.

* * * * *

These regions have within them a strong community of interest. Problems which relate to one country or segment of such a region may also apply to other countries or segments within the same area. These broad areas can be readily recognized as focal points in the international scene with much the same tension and conflict.

According to the U.S. Department of State Bulletin,[2] "The independent states of the world (1963) encompass (without Antarctica) nearly 48 million square miles, or 91 percent of the world total, and a population of 2.9 billion, representing over 96 percent of the world's some three billion inhabitants. The remaining less than 100 million people living on 4.6 million square miles represent a diminishing minority of world citizenry. Although this segment of the world's inhabitants live in countries not fully independent, most of them do have the benefit of at least some aspects of independence."

(1) Status of the World's Nations, U.S. Dept. of State, Geographic Bulletin No. 2, July 1963.

(2) Ibid., p. 2.

516

NEW STATES

The following tabulations show statistically the geographical distribution of the new states by continents and chronological distribution by year of independence.

New States by Continents (1943-1962)

AFRICA	29
ASIA	16
NORTH AMERICA	2
EUROPE	1
OCEANIA	1
Total -	49

New States by Years (1943-1962)

1943	1
1944	2
1946	2
1947	2
1948	4
1949	4
1951	1
1956	3
1957	2
1958	1
1960	18
1961	2
1962	7
	49
Added 1963-1964	5
	54

LIST OF NEW STATES (total 54)

Algeria
Burma
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Ceylon
Chad
Congo (Brazzaville)
Congo (Leopoldville)
Cyprus
Dahomey
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Israel
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Jordan
Kenya
Korea, Rep. of
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Libya
Malawi
Malagasy Republic
Malaysia, Fed. of
Mali
Mauritania
Morocco
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somali Republic
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Tanganyika
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Uganda
Upper Volta
Viet-Nam, Rep. of
Western Samoa
Zambia
Zanzibar

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NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES 1943-63

Nation	Independence Date	Former Status	POPULATION LATEST OFFICIAL EST. Date	Population (000)	AREA Sq.Miles
Algeria, Democratic and Popular Republic of	7/3/62	French overseas territory	6/30/60	11,020	920,000
Burma, Union of	1/4/48	Self-governing unit of the British Commonwealth	7/1/63	23,664	262,000
Burundi, Kingdom of	7/1/62	Part of Belgian U.N.Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi	7/1/62	2,600	11,000
Cambodia, Kingdom of	11/8/49	Protectorate in French Indochina	4/17/62	5,740	67,000
Cameroon, Federal Rep. of	1/1/60	French U.N. Trust Territory	7/1/63	4,560	184,000
Central African Republic	8/13/60	French overseas territory of Ubangi-Shari	7/1/63	1,300	242,000
Ceylon	2/4/48	British Crown colony	7/8/63	10,625	25,000
Chad, Republic of	8/11/60	Rep. of Chad, member of French Community	7/1/63	2,800	495,000
Congo, Rep. of (Brazzaville)	8/15/60	French overseas territory of Middle Congo	7/1/63	840	135,000
Congo, Rep. of (Leopoldville)	6/30/60	Belgian Congo, Belgian colony	6/30/63	15,007	905,000
Cyprus, Republic of	8/16/60	British Crown colony	8/31/63	591	4,000
Dahomey, Republic of	8/1/60	French overseas territory	7/1/63	2,250	45,000
Gabon Republic	8/17/60	French overseas territory	7/1/63	458	102,000

(continued)

NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES 1943-63

Nation	Independence date	Former status	POPULATION LATEST OFFICIAL EST. Date	Population (000)	AREA Sq.Miles
Ghana, Republic of	3/6/57	British Gold Coast colony and the U.N. trusteeship of British Togoland	6/30/63	7,340	92,000
Guinea, Republic of	10/2/58	French overseas territory	7/1/63	3,357	95,000
Iceland, Republic of	6/17/44	Sovereign state, nominally under Danish King	12/1/63	187	40,000
India, Republic of	8/15/47	Part of British Indian Empire	7/1/62	449,381	1,177,000
Indonesia, Rep. of	12/28/49	Netherlands East Indies, Netherlands overseas territory	12/31/62	98,830	576,000
Israel, State of	5/15/48	Part of British mandated Palestine	4/30/64	2,469	8,000
Ivory Coast, Rep. of	8/7/60	French overseas territory	7/1/63	3,665	125,000
Jamaica	8/6/62	British colony	12/31/63	1,706	4,000
Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of	3/22/46	Part of British mandated Palestine (formerly it was Trans-Jordan)	7/1/63	1,827	37,000
Kenya	12/12/63	British Crown colony and protectorate	7/1/63	8,847	225,000
Korea, Republic of	8/15/48	Former Japanese possession, divided from North Korea by Potsdam agreement, 1945	4/30/64	27,821	37,000
Kuwait	6/19/61	British Protectorate	7/1/63	347	6,000

(continued) -

MAP V: INDEPENDENT STATES, 1945-64

Nation	Independence Date	Former status	Population Latest Census Year		
			Date	Population (1000)	Area Sq. Mi.
Ghana, Republic of	3/6/57	British Gold Coast colony and the U.N. trusteeship of British Togoland	6/30/61	7,247	92,000
Guinea, Republic of	10/2/58	French overseas territory	7/1/61	3,257	95,000
Malagasy, Republic of	6/27/60	Separate states, nominally under Danish King	10/1/65	127	10,000
India, Republic of	8/15/47	Part of British Indian Empire	7/1/64	449,291	1,177,000
Indonesia, Rep. of	12/27/49	Netherlands East Indies, Netherlands Indies overseas territory	12/31/62	96,830	776,000
Israel, State of	5/15/48	Part of British mandated Palestine	4/1/64	2,494	8,000
Ivory Coast, Rep. of	8/7/60	French overseas territory	7/1/62	3,665	124,000
Jordan	8/4/46	British colony	12/31/63	1,706	4,000
Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of	3/22/46	Part of British mandated Palestine (formerly it was Trans-Jordan)	7/1/63	3,247	37,000
Kenya	12/12/63	British crown colony and protectorate	7/1/63	6,847	225,000
Korea, Republic of	8/15/48	Former Japanese possession, divided from North Korea by Potsdam agreement, 1945	4/1/64	27,221	37,000
Kuwait	6/19/61	British Protectorate	7/1/63	34	6,000

(Continued)

NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES 1943 63

Nation	Independence date	Former status	POPULATION LATEST OFFICIAL EST. Date	Population (000)	AREA Sq.Miles
Laos, Kingdom of	7/19/49	Protectorate, part of Fr.Indochina	May 1962	1,882	86,000
Lebanon, Republic of	11/22/43	Part of Franch mandated territory of Syria	7/1/60	1,646	4,000
Libya, Kingdom of	12/24/51	Italian colony; administered by Britain and France from World War II to independence	7/1/63	1,270	679,000
Malawi	7/6/64	British protectorate(Nyasaland)	Dec. 1962	3,000 est.	46,000
Malagasy Republic	6/26/60	French overseas terr.(Madasgascar)	7/1/63	5,940	228,000
Malaysia, Federation of	9/16/63	Malaya, Singapore,Sarawak,North Borneo (all British possessions)	1963	10,000	131,000
Mali, Republic of	9/22/60	French overseas territory	7/1/63	4,394	465,000
Mauritania,Islamic Rep. of	11/28/60	French overseas territory	7/1/64	1,000	419,000
Morocco, Kingdom	3/2/56	French and Spanish protectorate	7/1/62	12,360	174,000
Niger, Republic of	8/3/60	French overseas territory	7/1/63	3,117	459,000
Nigeria, Fed. of	10/1/60	British colony and trust terr.	9/4/63	55,654	339,000
Pakistan, Republic of	8/14/47	Part of Brit.Indian Empire	7/1/63	98,612	365,000
Philippines, Republic of	7/4/46	U.S. territory	12/1/63	30,758	116,000
Rwanda, Republic of	7/1/62	Part of Belgian trusteeship of Ruanda-Urundi	12/31/60	2,695	10,000
Senegal, Republic of	8/20/60	French overseas territory	7/1/63	3,360	76,000

(cont'd)

NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES 1943-63

Nation	Independence date	Former status	POPULATION LATEST OFFICIAL EST. Date	Population (000)	AREA Sq.Miles
Sierra Leone	4/27/61	British colony and protectorate	7/1/63	2,190	28,000
Somali Republic (Somalia)	7/1/60	Somaliland -Italian U.N.Trust terr. and British protectorate	7/1/62	2,250	246,000
Sudan, Republic of	1/1/56	Anglo-Egyptian Sudan,a condominium	7/1/64	13,180	967,000
Syrian Arab Republic	1/1/44	French mandate of Syria	7/1/63	5,251	71,000
Tanganyika, Republic of	12/9/61	British trust territory	6/30/63	9,798	362,000
Togo, Republic of	4/27/60	French Togoland,trust territory	7/1/63	1,563	22,000
Trinidad and Tobago	8/31/62	British colonies,W.Indies Fed.	7/1/62	894	2,000
Tunisia, Rep. of	3/20/56	French protectorate	12/31/63	4,546	48,000
Uganda	10/9/62	British protectorate	6/30/63	7,019	94,000
Upper Volta, Republic of	8/5/60	French overseas territory	6/30/63	4,650	106,000
Viet-Nam, Republic of	3/8/49	Part of French Indochina	7/1/63	15,317	63,000
Western Samoa,The Indep.State of	1/1/62	New Zealand U.N.Trust Territory	6/30/63	119	1,000
Zambia, Republic of	10/24/64	British terr.(Northern Rhodesia)	7/1/63	3,500	288,000
Zanzibar,People's Rep. of	12/10/63	British protectorate	7/1/62	320	640

Sources: "Chart of New Nations" from This is the Church in New Nations by George M. Daniels. New York: Friendship Press, 1964.

United Nations - Population and Vital Statistics Report, Data available as of July 1, 1964. Statistical Papers,Series A Vol.XVI No.2. ST/STAT/SER.A/70.1964.

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WORLD SUMMARY - POPULATION

Estimates of midyear population 1930 - 1963

	1930 (1)	1940 (1)	1950 (1)	1960 (1)	1963 (2)
			- millions -		
WORLD TOTAL	2,015	2,249	2,509	3,010	3,218
AFRICA	157	176	207	257	296
Northern Africa	53	61	71	88	
Tropical and Southern Africa	104	115	136	169	
AMERICA	244	277	329	412	438
Northern America	135	146	167	200)	281
Middle America	34	41	51	67)	
South America	75	90	111	145	157
ASIA	1,072	1,212	1,384	1,684	1,802
South West Asia	47	53	60	76	
South Central Asia	362	410	471	560	
South East Asia	128	155	174	218	
East Asia	535	594	679	830	
EUROPE	356	381	395	426	439
Northern and Western Europe	122	128	133	142	
Central Europe	120	127	128	138	
Southern Europe	114	126	134	146	
OCEANIA	10.4	11.3	13.0	16.5	17.5
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS	176	192	181	214	225

(1) United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1963.

(2) United Nations Population and Vital Statistics Report. Data available as of July 1, 1964. Stat. Papers Series A, Vol. XVI, No. 3, ST/STAT/SER.A/70.

WORLD SUMMARY - CONTINUED

Table 1. Areas of adherent population 1920 - 1951

	1939 (1)	1949 (1)	1950 (1)	1951 (1)
- THOUSANDS -				
WORLD TOTAL	2,014	2,249	2,309	2,310	2,326
AFRICA	147	176	227	227	296
Northern Africa	15	61	27	25	
Tropical and Southern Africa	104	115	195	197	
AMERICA	242	277	329	332	332
Northern America	175	248	300	300	297
Middle America	16	20	(31 | 29)	
South America	51	70	171	142	157
ASIA	1,022	1,234	1,304	1,294	1,299
South West Asia	47	53	60	56	
South Central Asia	502	420			
South East Asia	182	185	184	184	214
East Asia	291	576	560	560	
OCEANIA	20	21	22	22	22
Northern and Western Europe	122	122	119	119	121
Central Europe	230	227	124	124	124
Southern Europe	111	104	130	130	134
OCEANIA	10.4	11.2	12.0	12.5	12.2
TOTAL OF "OFFICIAL" SOCIALIST ATHEISTS	176	192	187	214	222

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(1) United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1952.

(2) Institute Nationale Statistique and Etude Economiques, Paris - Annuaire de la France d'Outre Mer, 1951. Bulletin Mensuel de Statistique, Vol. XLV, No. 3, Supplement 1951.